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A TREE GUESSING CONTEST

By J. S. HOLMES

State Forester for North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C.

One of the most important and often one of the most difficult parts of State forestry work is interesting the children of the schools in the trees and forests which they see around them; for only by laying such foundations can a permanent State forest policy be secured.

At the recent annual meeting of the North Carolina Forestry Association in Wilmington, the most successful forestry lesson for children probably ever held in this state was given. Six hundred children gathered in the Hemenway School Auditorium to take part in a guessing contest inaugurated by the Association, but worked up by the principal and teachers of the city schools.

The children were supplied with a list of sixteen common North Carolina trees, a blank sheet of paper ruled and numbered one to sixteen with lines at the bottom for the name, grade and school of the child.

Lantern slides, illustrating the form and characteristics of each tree were shown. These were supplemented by information concerning the distribution, habits and uses of the different trees given by the State Forester. After each tree had been shown, the lights were turned on for a moment, so that the children could write down the name of the tree on their paper. After all the trees had been shown, two motion picture reels, loaned by the Forest Service, the one showing forest fires and the other lumbering lodgepole pine, were shown, while a number of the teachers went over and marked the papers.

Four children guessed all sixteen trees correctly. These had to draw for the first four prizes, which were as follows: first, Coker & Totten's "Trees of North Carolina," and \$1.00 in cash; second, Coker & Totten's "Trees of North Carolina," and 50 cents in cash; third, Coker & Totten's "Trees of North Carolina," and fourth, 75 cents in cash. Four children got fifteen trees right and each got 50 cents in cash. The ninth prize was also 50 cents, whilst the tenth to 16th were 25 cents in cash each. Six children got fourteen right, and two got thirteen right, so that there was no need for deciding priority by lot. The prizes were offered by the Association.

The entertainment which included the reading and endorsement of the resolutions proposed by the Association at its afternoon meeting lasted for more than two hours, yet the interest of the children was sustained at the highest pitch throughout. The Wilmington paper said: "It was hard for them to keep quiet, so

enthusiastic were they over the contest that gave so much interest to the event." The principal has since written as follows: "I want to thank you for the very delightful evening which you gave the children on the occasion of the meeting here last Friday evening. The children who won the prizes are real heroes in town. Please send me the correct list of trees as you showed them on the screen, as I want to place the correct list in every school. Everybody is talking trees now.

"We all enjoyed greatly your visit and I want you to feel that you have made friends for forest conservation of hundreds of children here in the city."

Such a success could not possibly have been achieved without the hearty co-operation of the school authorities. The teachers in the various schools kept the matter before the children for a week or two before the contests, by drawing the different parts of the various trees in the list on the black board and by telling the children about the trees. Every book about trees in the library had been called for by the children, and nothing had been neglected which would add to the success of the occasion. Contests along this or similar lines might be arranged in other schools where such hearty co-operation could be secured.

THE ASSOCIATION OF MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS

At the recent meeting of the Teachers' Assembly at Charlotte a Modern Language Association was organized by the modern language teachers present. A constitution was adopted and officers for the following year were elected.

It was decided that the Association meet annually, in connection with the Teachers' Assembly. Dues for a year's membership were fixed at fifty cents; dues including a year's subscription to the *Modern Language Journal* are one dollar and seventy-five cents (\$1.75). This journal is published by the federations of modern language associations in the East, the Central West, and the South and deals wholly with the problems of modern language teaching. It is exceedingly helpful, and ought to be in the hands of every modern language teacher in the state. The regular subscription price is \$1.50 per year; to get it at the reduced rate of \$1.25 subscription must be sent through the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, Miss Annie Beam, Shelby, N. C. Sample copies of the *Journal* may be procured from C. H. Handschin, Oxford, Ohio.

We hope to make this association a clearing-house for teachers in both high schools and colleges. We hope to raise the standard of modern language teach-

ing the state, and we desire to give definite practical help in every way possible. In order to do this we need your co-operation. You can aid us by becoming a member of the Association, by calling the attention of other possible members to the organization, and by making any suggestions that may occur to you that will advance its work. Will you not help us?

HINDA TEAGUE HILL,
State Normal College, Greensboro, President.

A. SONNTAG,
Elizabeth City, Vice-President.

ANNIE BEAM,
Shelby, Secretary-Treasurer.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

ARTICLE I—*Name*

This Association shall be known as the "Association of Modern Language Teachers of North Carolina."

ARTICLE II—*Purpose*

The purpose of this Association shall be: (1) To further and improve the study and teaching of modern foreign languages. (2) To promote good fellowship among its members.

ARTICLE III—*Membership*

Anyone in North Carolina interested in the study and teaching of modern languages shall be eligible to membership.

ARTICLE IV—*Officers*

The officers shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary (who shall act as treasurer), and three directors. These officers shall constitute an Executive Council, and shall have general charge of the affairs of the Association.

ARTICLE V—*Dues*

The annual dues for membership shall be fifty cents. The annual dues for membership and subscription to the *Modern Language Journal* shall be one dollar and seventy-five cents. One dollar and a quarter of this fee shall be paid annually by the treasurer of the Association to the treasurer of the Association of Modern Language Teachers of the Central West and South to cover the annual subscription to the *Journal* which is to be sent to every subscribing member.

ARTICLE VI—*Amendments*

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

If you think THE JOURNAL is worth \$1.00 a year, tell your fellow-teachers about it.

A NOTE ON GIRLS' BASKET BALL

The appearance of Spalding's Official Basket Ball Guide for Women containing the revised official rules for 1917-1918 as adopted by the American Physical Educational Association may be taken as the occasion to bring to the attention of the high school teachers of North Carolina the results of a meeting held during the Teachers' Assembly at Charlotte.

During the first evening at Charlotte while numbers of teachers were still arriving in the city and before the Assembly had organized for business, a sharp discussion arose in a little group of interested teachers about the prospect ahead in the state for girls' basket ball. Each speaker related as his experience that the game held possibilities for both the girls and the school, but that its wider usefulness was limited because of the fact that each community puts its own interpretation upon the rules; and that friendly games between different schools were practically impossible because of these different interpretations. It was suggested that the topic was of sufficient interest to justify a meeting of all high school teachers in any way interested in girls' athletics. This meeting was called and was attended by some twenty-five teachers from different parts of the state.

After some discussion it was apparent that the only thing to do looking to a satisfactory adjustment of the situation was to request a committee of three to confer with each other, and to draw up some suggestions looking toward the standardization of the rules for girls' basket ball in North Carolina. The sense of the meeting was that this committee, first, secure, if possible, the co-operation of the University toward this end, and request that girls' basket ball be given the same recognition as is given to boys' basket ball; i. e., that a high school championship contest be held; second, so amend or restrict, if necessary, the rules shortly to be published as to make it imperative that the standard girls' court should be divided into only two parts with the privilege of traversing the dividing line at will granted only to the centers,—the centers to have the privilege of throwing goals.

I submit for the consideration of high school teachers throughout the state the suggestions as agreed upon by this committee. If the idea of championship game contests for girls makes any appeal to you suppose you write to the editor of THE JOURNAL and state your views.

SUGGESTIONS LOOKING TOWARD STANDARDIZATION OF RULES FOR GIRLS' BASKET BALL IN NORTH CAROLINA

1. That the rules for playing as laid down in Spalding's Official Basket Ball Guide for Women containing